Under the National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture (NWDPRA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, the monitoring and evaluation of watershed treated under the programme is clone using remote sensing the GIS. Such monitoring and impact assessment has been carried out for many watersheds distributed in the states of Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Watershed development programmes in many states use remote sensing data in an operational manner for soil and water conservation. For e.g., the World Bank aided Sujala Watershed Development Programme in Karnataka undertaken by the Watershed Development Department, Government of Karnataka use remote sensing and GIS for monitoring and evaluation of 77 sub watersheds in Kolar, Tunkur, Chitradurga, Dharwad and Haveri. Similar programmes are ongoing in many other States.

Besides the above, there are many user-funded projects which operationally use satellite remote sensing data from NRSA such as the (i) Assessment and monitoring of waterlogging soil salinity in major command areas undertaken by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Goa: (ii) Integrated Resource Information System for Desert areas of the Department of Land Resources of Ministry of Rural Development; (iii) Identification and reclamation assessment of soidic soils of UP under the World Bank aided project: (iv) Desertification monitoring and assessment using satellite remote sensing the GIS under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Technology in National Remote Sensing Agency

164. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of parameters adopted by various institutions for the transfer of technology in National Remote Sensing Agency;

(b) whether certain changes are proposed to be brought about in these paramenters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) NRSA acquires Remote Sensing data and adds value to it either in houses or with the participation of user agencies including private industries for their absorption, adoption and appropriate adaptations at the user end through constant interaction and seamless integration with the products and services of the user agencies. It does involve capacity transfer rather than technology transfer, which is a continuous process.

Development of Science Cities

165. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the scheme to develop some places in the form of science cities in the country is going on;

(b) if so, the places along with the State where the work is going on this scheme; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to set up and develop science cities in Roorkie, Dehradun and Nainital in Uttaranchal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India facilitates the setting up Science Cities on the basis of proposals received from agencies including the State Governments, after examining the merits of the project proposals. At present work on setting up of Science Cities is going on in Kapurthala (Punjab) and Ahmedabad (Gujarat). The Regional Science Center at Lucknow is being upgraded into a Science City.

(c) No, Sir.